PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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LECTURE XXVI.

A YEAR OF SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN.

[NOTE.—One of the urgent problems before His Majesty's Government is the German Submarine Campaign in the Atlantic. Scare-mongers love this subject, so we make no apology for reprinting as our leading article this week an Essay in "*The Nineteenth Century*," of October last which, though the opinion of an informed commentator and not an official pronouncement, is comfortingly apposite to the issue.]

COMPLETE figures being now recorded for fifty-two weeks of war, it is possible to devote some study to the part played so far in the present struggle by the submarine. The visible drama of air warfare on the doorsteps and rooftops of the citizens has tended in recent weeks to distract interest from the other form of attack against our war effort and to this result there has been the further contributory factor of a considerable tightening of the censorship restrictions on news of merchant shipping losses. It is permissible to disagree with the official policy in this matter and to question the validity of the reasons advanced for its enforcement, but it is certainly not permissible to defy the regulations. Consequently any comment.

on the U-boat war can at present only be based on the recorded facts and figures. It must be said, to avert any possibility of misunderstanding, that **there is no suggestion that the published figures are in any way untruthful.**

OUR FACTS. The form in which they are now made public does not any longer disclose more than the bare number of ships sunk each week and the total tonnage. Those figures are correct, subject to any belated news of sinkings subsequently received. Careful checking by those who are interested, unofficially, in the compilation of statistics of the sea war has so far shown that the official figures have been brought up to date most carefully whenever such additional losses have subsequently become known. **To within a few tons** unofficial tabulations agree with the following official total of losses up to September 1st:

British	1,539,196 tons.
Allied	462,924 ,,
Neutral	769,213 ,,
	2,771,333 ,,

That gives an average weekly loss of 53,295 tons.

ENEMY ANTICIPATIONS. Those figures have a particular significance when they are placed against the figures that are known to have been the German estimate of the effect of a submarine onslaught on world shipping at the outset of the war. **Their expectation was that seaborne trade, proceeding on its normal peace-time courses and routine at the start of the war, would be overwhelmed by their lightning U-boat attacks, and that 2,000,000 tons would be sunk within the first month.** It was one of those wildly optimistic forecasts so characteristic of the Nazi régime. It was not based on any scientific study of the problems : it completely ignored any likelihood of opposition and counter-action : and it left out of account any consideration of the well-known characteristics of the merchant seamen, not only British, but Scandinavian, Dutch and French. It was what Hitler wanted, it was what he ordered and therefore it must happen. He had been told that in one record month in the last war U-boats of the Imperial German Navy had achieved the sinking of 881,000 tons of shipping. The U-boats of the Third

Reich must more than double that achievement. It was an order—and in those days one did not show Hitler reasons why an order was ridiculous. If to-day he sees any reports on the U-boat war apart from those issued to the German Press, he must realise how completely he failed to understand the nature of the task he was imposing on his flotillas. And even the German official reports can hardly fail to provide an unpleasant surprise for him, for that imperturbable exaggerator, Dr. Goebbels, has not dared to do more than double the correct total and claim rather more than 5,000,000 tons as the world shipping sunk in the year. There have been indications in the past two months that Hitlerian thunder must have burst over the heads of those responsible for the U-boat war. The claims in Berlin's official bulletins have steadily mounted, until we arrive at the position that in the week ending September 1st the actual losses were 84,575 tons and the Germans claimed 243,671 tons. The true figure has to be trebled in an attempt to appease the Fuehrer!

[NOTE.—In spite of intensification of the U-boat campaign after this article was written, the monthly average of sinkings from June to November last year was 120,000 tons less than in 1917, while the November figure itself was 100,000 tons less than in October. Since December the figures have shrunk still further. Ed.]

The total effect of the year's war against seaborne trade, then, has been that the **U-boats, mines and aircraft only succeeded in doing in twelve months rather more damage than their programme set them to do in one month.** In a year they averaged weekly sinkings of about one-tenth of the amount they were ordered to sink in each of the first four weeks. There we have one measure, and an important one, by which to estimate the results of a year of hostilities.

£. S. D. There is another side of the picture, **the price paid for the tonnage sunk.** Here to some extent we are in the realms of speculation, for no figures are published of U-boat sinkings, but we know from various statements to Parliament by responsible Ministers that the U-boat flotillas suffered a crushing material defeat in the first three months of the war, a defeat just as startling as the R. A. F.'s slaughters of 150 to 180 enemy machines in one day. For example, we are told that from August 10th to September 10th the German Air Force loss in personnel was at least 3,600 and the number of machines

1,466. The published statements about the U-boat losses enable us to deduce that some 2,500 trained officers and men of the flotillas were lost in the first weeks of the war, and that about sixty boats were destroyed. And it is a curious coincidence that the capital cost of the material lost to the Germans in both cases is approximately £15,000,000.

WARE ADVERTISING! The open-air nature of the flying men's contests makes it possible to disclose daily statistics of the losses inflicted on the enemy. The secrecy of underwater attack and counter-attack compels an almost complete silence about the results of encounters; consequently the world at large has all but failed to appreciate the remarkable victory won by the British Navy over its only seagoing opponents at the very start of the war. If there had been regular bulletins announcing the destruction of the enemy submarine, the rapidly growing tabulation of this loss would have been just as impressive as have been the well-displayed tables of enemy air losses. But apart from some rare instances—as when three U-boats were sunk in one day—the Admiralty has felt compelled to maintain a strict silence about the achievements of our hunting flotillas in that fierce first outburst of activity, a silence that, though few have noted, has been even more strict in the past three months, during which newly-built reinforcements for the U-boat flotillas have been thrown into a second endeavour to enforce that 'total blockade' of which Hitler talks so loudly, but of which our breakfast tables and our factories remain pleasantly unaware. It may perhaps surprise those who do not make a regular study of the war at sea to be told that for sixteen weeks there has been no hint in any authoritative statement that any U-boat has been sunk. An occasional remark by a seaman from a torpedoed ship that the attacker was destroyed is passed by the censor with no guarantee that it is accurate (that is not the task of the censorship). A Canadian destroyer's crew were quoted recently as saying that they had sunk six U-boats in the course of their service in the Eastern Atlantic. At odd intervals the name of a German seaman or petty-officer appears inconspicuously among the lists of prisoners of war officially issued. Beyond that no one outside the Admiralty has any information.

PSYCHOLOGY It is sometimes suggested that all this secrecy is to be deprecated because news of such successes would cheer the people. But we have found by

experience, both recently and in the 1914 war, **that the depressing and harassing effect on the German personnel and on their leaders of the total lack of any information about what happens to their missing boats is of even greater importance in the ultimate balance than the momentary heartening of our own public.** The Admiralty have, perhaps, counted also to some extent on the known tendency of the people of this country to take it for granted that the Navy is all right and that, however silent, it is getting on with its work. In this particular instance of the war against U-boats that public confidence has been entirely justified. Even in the fifteen weeks from the end of May to the beginning of September, when the damage done to world shipping by the campaign rose to higher figures than at any other period of the war, the weekly average of losses of British, Allied and neutral shipping did not reach 100,000 tons. The period marked a most intensive effort by the enemy. The attack by U-boats was reinforced by extensive laying of minefields and by many attempts to wreck convoys by means of air attack. We do not at present know the proportions in which each form of attack has caused losses. That is one of the points on which the Admiralty has deemed it desirable to keep the enemy in the dark so far as possible. But all the available information points at least to one conclusion—that air attack has played quite a minor part in the rise in the weekly totals of loss.

THOSE DREADED ITALIAN SUBMARINES. The Italian submarine campaign shows much the same picture as the opening weeks of the U-boat war. There have been claims in Italian bulletins that certain of their underwater craft have returned from cruises in the Atlantic after having sunk so much tonnage, and it is conceivable that some such cruises (with a much lower total result) have been achieved. It is no further to the Portuguese coast from the Italian bases than from the original German bases of the U-boats, and technically the feat is quite possible. The Straits of Gibraltar cannot be made impassable for underwater craft, though they can be made dangerous. It may be noted that the British command in the Mediterranean has made public several reports of the sinking of Italian submarines and that the censorship has passed other unofficial reports, so that in the first nine weeks of the Italian campaign it became evident that the Italian loss in submarines was between seventeen and nineteen boats. This figure corresponds, most

interestingly, to the published average of losses of German U-boats in about the same period last autumn—**between two and four a week,** Mr. Churchill told the House of Commons—and goes to show that the detection methods and destructive devices of the Navy have been as effective against the junior partner in the Axis as against Germany. The Italian submarines have had to wander far afield in search of targets, since no commercial convoys pass through the Mediterranean for Allied purposes, but it is evident from despatches from the Middle East that the attempt to interfere with our seaborne traffic in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean off the African coast has cost the Italians serious losses. It has been suggested unofficially that at the beginning of September no more than three of the boats which had been stationed in those waters in preparation for the war were still in service. It will have been noticed also that the bulletins of the Mediterranean Commander-in-Chief on the subject of the movement of military convoys through the Mediterranean from Gibralter to Alexandria emphasise that no losses have been suffered in the course of the 2,000-mile transit.

OUR OWN SUBMARINES. Underwater activity has not been confined to enemy boats. British submarines have maintained a steady pressure on such German seaborne transport as is attempted, especially for the maintenance of the army of occupation in Norway, and in the Mediterranean against the Italian lines of supply to North Africa. A large number of transports and supply ships have been sunk. But it is evident from the mounting total of our boats that are missing that we have no monopoly of anti-submarine devices. We have lost fifteen boats either in the North Sea or the Mediterranean by enemy action, and one by an accident, while the Polish Navy has lost the historic *Orzel*. These losses have been sustained in the course of attacks against legitimate targets, warships and transports, and it must be said that the more evidence we accumulate of the actual operations of submarines in wartime the more clear does it become how fragile a weapon the navies of the world have developed in this class, **and how slight is its real effect on the course of events.** Apart from startling but rare successes, such as the sinking of the *Courageous* and the *Royal Oak*, submarine war has had little influence on the legitimate warlike activities of either side. It is odd to turn back to the naval writings of thirty years ago, at a time when the

effectiveness of the submarine was untried and the menace of it taken very seriously by a large school of thought.

OLD PROPHECIES. The prophecies that were hazarded sound most ridiculous in the light of experience in two major wars.

Four or five submarines with a total load of sixteen or twenty torpedoes fired as a first load should......be able to do for six or seven (surface) ships at least.

That is an example from a wholly serious technical treatise only a quarter of a century old.

It was widely supposed then that submarines would work in flotillas like destroyers, and would attack upon a concerted plan. Practical experience under war conditions blew that theory to the winds in the early months of 1914 and it became evident that the submarine must work as a lone wolf. Even when massed in pre-arranged positions as submarine traps against the expected line of advance of an enemy fleet they failed conspicuously (as in August, 1916) to achieve any serious damage or to affect the general tactical situation. Our own submarines, though posted on the line of retreat of the German Fleet after Jutland, were totally unware of what was happening and by conforming to the general orders previously given to them made no contact with Scheer's squadrons which they should have harassed, by all the pre-war predictions, the whole way into harbour.

VAIN EXPERIMENTS. Attempts have been made by the designers to produce larger and more effective submarines. In every navy failure has resulted because the increase in size has been obtained only by the sacrifice of the one quality which gives the submarine any usefulness—its ability to dive quickly to avoid detection or attack. The British K-class, steam-driven on the surface at a nominal speed of 22 knots, were produced for the purpose of co-operation with the main fleet. They were a tactical failure. The co-operation could not be achieved. There is small need to cite the three freaks of the M-class with their 12-inch short-calibre guns, their superimposed air craft hangars and other fantastic experiments. More than a million sterling was spent on the construction, reconstruction and adaptations of the monster X1, which became a complete

white elephant and was never taken seriously as a unit of the fighting fleet. The French naval officers' opinion of their own gigantic *Surcouf* after some months of experience with it was quite unprintable in any language, and despite the secrecy that surrounds all naval matters in Japan, it is generally accepted that the 2,000-ton boats designed fifteen years ago, and persevered with until a couple of years ago, proved unsatisfactory and that a smaller type figured in later programmes.

If therefore the submarine has no prospects of development into a formidable legitimate weapon, if it fails to fulfil its function as a commerce-destroying pirate, 'What is the use of the submarine'? It is a question that the British Admiralty has posed to every international naval conference since the last war. The only answer based on any technical considerations is 'it is useful for coastal defence for the small Powers.' That may be a very chivalrous and unselfish attitude for the big Powers to take, but it is hardly convincing. The submarine was not abolished because it was Britain who put forward the arguments against it. We have provided a few more in the past year to strengthen our case.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

2—1—41 to 8—1—41.

THE NEW YEAR.

RING out the old year of struggle, ring in the New Year of Victory and Glory to British Arms. Ring out the demon of Nazi and Fascist tyranny, ring in the era of liberty, amity and friendliness. May the year which dawns with the frustration of ITALY'S ambitions in the Middle East witness also the early frustration of Nazi dreams in Western EUROPE and lead to a smashing British victory which will free EUROPE and the world for ever from the terror of militarism: with such fervent hope and thanks to the Great Giver, let us welcome the New Year.

THE FALL OF BARDIA.

BARDIA fell on Saturday evening when the beleaguered garrison surrendered and the Italian flag was hauled down from Government House. The Italians had fortified the place for four years and now held it with 20,000 troops, for some 18 days. But its fate had been sealed from the very beginning and the final assault and capture was completed in a couple of days. Australian infantry had the honour of leading the attack.

The assault has been described as a "classical" example of co-ordinated fighting on land, sea and air and a 'master stroke' of careful planning and execution according to programme.

As the *Times* puts it the supreme test of victory is the measure in which the victor approaches his strategic goal and the vanquished recedes from it. Judged in this way BARDIA may be hailed as a signal victory, because by this success Italian threat to EGYPT no longer exists and the enemy's hold on his own possessions in LIBYA and ABYSSINIA has been weakened. The Italian loss in men and material has been enormous.

The total number of prisoners taken in the Libyan campaign, including those at BARDIA is 70,000.

But the Libyan campaign is not yet over. BARDIA having been taken, the attack on TOBRUK has begun. TOBRUK is one of the biggest enemy

air and naval bases, situated about a hundred miles from the Libyan frontier. Its defences consist of two perimeters, instead of one, as at BARDIA. But with all its strength, it is not expected to offer much resistance. According to a military authority it may fall within a week.

ITALY.

It has been officially announced that sections of the *Luftwaffe* have arrived in ITALY to participate in the naval and air struggle in the Mediterranean. A large number of German officers are also reported to have reached ROME as technical advisers. There can be no greater humiliation than this to Mussolini or the Italians. The historic enemy and oppressor of ITALY has entered the gates of ROME, and no doubt the Gestapo will follow.

It has been suggested that the arrival of German planes is merely a *quid pro quo* for the assistance rendered by ITALY to GERMANY when she sent some planes to BELGIUM to participate in the attack on BRITAIN. But the explanation is hardly convincing, in the face of another announcement of the Italian Government to the effect that the Italian planes sent to BELGIUM have since been withdrawn.

Evidence is accumulating that Badoglio is being regarded more and more as the man of the future. It is believed that he warned Mussolini orginally of the magnitude of the Greek effort but that Mussolini, thinking that the Greeks would offer only a 'token-resistance' sent but a quarter of the troops necessary. Count Ciano who is believed to be the instigator of the Greek Campaign may find himself in disgrace.

THE ITALO-GREEK WAR.

This brings us to the Italo-Greek war which is now being fought in Albanian soil. To prevent the loss of VALONA, the Italians are throwing up a new line of fortifications across the centre of the country and are developing counter-attacks. These have so far failed. A deadly battle was fought in the KLISURA sector on December 31. On January 2, the R. A. F. raided ELBASAN and the Greeks crossed the river Bence, threatening the TEPELENI-VALONA Road. Despite intense cold (25° below zero) the Greek Army is steadily nibbling at Italian positions in the Shkumbi valley.

[*Late news,—**Klisura** has fallen to the Greeks*].

FRANCE.

Broadcasting on New Year's Day M. Petain said, 'France occupies too large a place in the Christian Civilisation of the West for that civilisation to exist without her.' 'Wounded France is not giving up' added General Huntziger, the Minister of War: and the *Le Temps* affirmed, 'France's will to defend her Far-Eastern Empire.'

Rumours are afloat that most of the French destroyers and submarines at TOULON have left for BIRERTA, ORAN, CASSABLANCA and DAKAR, but there is no confirmation to be had.

Reports of the formation of an inner cabinet or Triumvirate under Petain, consisting of Darlan, Huntziger and Flandin are considered premature.

Another report states that GERMANY has asked Vichy for the use of the Mont Cenis Railway for the transport of coal and other materials to ITALY. This line which runs through only 7½ miles of mountains is no doubt the most direct and quickest route to ITALY from FRANCE, free from wintry conditions and without the disadvantage of a steep gradient which in the case of the Brenner Pass line slows down trains to snail's pace.

M. Badouin, Secretary of State to Petain's Government has tendered his resignation 'on personal grounds'.

AMERICA.

Sections of President Roosevelt's Fireside Talk delivered on December 30 are still appearing in the Press and were fully implemented in his message to Congress later. 'The whole purpose of your President', he is reported to have said, 'is to keep you and your grandchildren and great grandchildren from the last ditch of a war for the preservation of American independence. Never since JAMESTOWN and PLYMOUTH ROCK has American civilisation been in such danger as now. The Nazi masters intended not only to dominate all life and thought in GERMANY but enslave EUROPE and use the resources of EUROPE to dominate the world. Assistance to BRITAIN is not a matter of sentiment but a realistic military policy based on the advice of U. S. Military experts.' In his message to the 77th Congress which

opened at WASHINGTON on the 6th he further expressed his great detestation of Nazism and the overwhelming determination of the American people to help BRITAIN.

He said :—

"We should remember that the Peace of 1919 was far less unjust than the kind of 'pacification' which began even before MUNICH and which is being carried out under the New Order of Tyranny that seeks to spread over every country to-day. The American people have unalterably put their faces against that.

"The Democratic way of life is at this moment being directly assailed in every part of the world—assailed either by arms or secret spreading of poisonous propaganda by those who seek to destroy unity and promote discord in the nations still at peace.

"During 16 months this assault has blotted out the whole pattern of life in an appalling number of independent nations, great and small. The assailants are still on the march, threatening other nations, great and small.

"Therefore, as your President, performing my constitutional duty to give Congress information on the state of the Union, I find it necessary to report that the future safety of our Country and of our Democracy is overwhelmingly involved in events far beyond our borders.

"*An armed defence of Democratic existence is now being gallantly waged in four Continents. If that defence fails, all the population and all the resources of Europe, Asia, Africa and Australasia will be dominated by the conquerors.*"

An open letter to the Congresss signed by 53 prominent people advocates a free gift to BRITAIN of ships, planes, tanks and guns in order not to 'sacrifice their blood later.'

The monthly production of arms in U. S. A. has now risen to 2,400 aircraft engines, 700 war planes, 100 tanks and 10,000 automatic rifles.

Mr. Harris Hopkins, who is to act as President Roosevelt's personal representative in BRITAIN pending the appointment of an ambassador to LONDON, has left for ENGLAND. It is believed that the U. S. A. desires to know through him whether BRITAIN proposes to stop the war after establishing its dominance in the air or after beating GERMANY on the Continent. British labour is reported to prefer the latter course.

AIR-RAIDS.

During the year that has closed there were 82 raids on HAMM, 61 on HAMBURG, 39 on GELSENKIRCHEN, 35 each on BERLIN, WILHELMSHAVEN, SOEST, and DUISBURG-RUHROT. On COLOGNE, MANNHEIM and OSNABRUCK each 34 and on BREMEN 32. The German loss in planes for the year was 3,500, with 375 more on the Continent.

During the week ending at dawn January 3 there were two raids on BREMEN, four on the LORIENT, sixteen on other harbours, oil stores and industrial targets. EMMERICH, EGERSMUND (NORWAY) and FLUSHING were also attacked Owing to bad weather there was no R. A. F. operation on December 31. On Jan. 1st, 20,000 incendiary bombs were dropped over BREMEN in a 3½ hour raid. The place became a raging furnace and the red glow in the sky could be seen a hundred and twenty miles away. When BREMEN was attacked on January 3, the second time during the week, smoke rose 9,000 feet high and 70 fires at least could be counted. The place looked like a 'gigantic illuminated Christmas tree.'

As a result of the "Nazi's witches' Sabbath of fire" in the City of LONDON on Sunday of last week, in addition to other damage already reported, Trinity House, on Tower Hill, the head-quarters of the Trinity Brethren has been destroyed, and Newgate Street has become a 'skeleton of buildings'. Yet shops within a stone's throw are carrying on business as usual. As the ruins of many buildings damaged by the fire are in a dangerous state of collapse, dynamite will be used to pull them down. It is sad to reflect that this fate awaits many an historic structure.

To fight the fire in future, a mass levy has been ordered of men and women, house-holders, shop-keepers, and workers in factories, ware-houses and offices to work compulsorily as fire-watchers, and fire-fighters under severe penalties for non-fulfilment of obligations. A new organisation to be called the Fire-Prevention-Executive consisting of various departments and authorities has also been set up to secure prompt and vigorous action in an emergency.

During recent attacks on MANCHESTER, the famous Free-Trade Hall, The Cotton Exchange, the Royal Exchange, Chatham Hospital and the Cathedral have suffered damage.

During this week BRISTOL and LIVERPOOL were the places to suffer. In the former place, a nursing home, a clinic, a convent, a cinema, a hotel, four churches and a school, a strange conglomeration indeed of 'military objectives', were hit.

B.B.C. House in LONDON has twice been hit recently just in the peak hour of broadcasting but all programmes proceeded normally and have since been maintained without break.

There were no raids over BRITAIN on the 31st, to interrupt the welcoming of the New Year. But this was due to bad weather, not to German humanity. Tuesday's attacks were slight and confined to KENT, SUSSEX and LIVERPOOL. CARDIFF and BRISTOL were attacked on Friday. Full statements of the raids will be found at the end of this summary.

For two nights in succession unknown planes have visited IRELAND and dropped bombs. Magnetic mines have also been sown by parachute off the Irish coast. Some of the bombs and mines which have been picked up have been identified as German. The Eirean Government also is reported to have lodged a protest with GERMANY, demanding reparation. But strange to say, GERMANY denies the charge and states that the missiles must be either British or American or imaginary!

WAR AT SEA.

British naval losses during 1940 were one aircraft carrier, 3 cruisers, 10 armed merchant cruisers, 33 destroyers and 21 submarines.

The German loss was 2 cruisers, 12 destroyers, one E-boat, one torpedo-boat, one patrol boat, one anti-aircraft guard ship and a number of submarines (known to the British Admiralty but not specified in order not to give information to the enemy).

The Italian loss amounted to one cruiser, 11 destroyers (one captured by the Greeks) and 25 submarines (one captured by the Greeks), in addition to 3 battleships, 2 cruisers and 2 auxiliaries badly damaged at TARANTO. Other damages are in the nature of hits on a battleship, 4 cruisers and 2 destroyers.

In spite of the defection of the French Navy, the increase of submarine bases for the enemy, and mine-laying from the air and by U-boats, the British Navy is keeping the enemy at bay, and maintains the command of all the seas.

500 persons, including 70 women and 7 children, survivors of a crew of 7 ships sunk during several months in the Pacific by an enemy raider were landed on December 21 on EMIRAN ISLAND in the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO. They suffered untold miseries while on board the raider.

Six Spanish merchant and fishing vessels have been attacked in recent months by Italian submarines. The explanation seems to be that the Italian navy, denied the opportunity to attack British naval units, has found an outlet for its energies in piracy.

GERMANY AND GERMAN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

In spite of dictatorial powers exercised by German authorities it has not been possible for them to obtain complete control over labour. The labour forces newly added consist of a million prisoners of war, a million pensioners and 300,000 women.

NORWAY.

Feeling against the Nazis is rising. Norwegians prefer to allow Nazi storm troopers the freedom of the streets rather than to meet or salute them. A number of policemen have resigned rather than give the Nazi salute. 16 members of the OSLO Municipality, including 3 women have been imprisoned, and the Supreme Court of Justice has resigned in a body.

THE NETHERLANDS.

Demonstrations in favour of the Royal House, the wearing of orange badges or buttonholes, and the singing of the national anthem (Wilhelmus) are now forbidden.

THE BALKANS.

A new régime is being set up in RUMANIA placing the Police, the Railway, the Posts, the Telegraphs and the National Bank under military jurisdiction.

BRITAIN.

A new drive for "speeding the war" has been announced. To carry out the object four committees have been set up, one to speed production, one to control imports and one to study post-war production. The work of the fourth committee is to co-ordinate the other three.

Mr. Churchill has been selected as the 'Man of the Year 1940' by the Magazine '*Time*' for having brought about most dramatic changes on the course of history.

R. A. F. Raids over GERMANY, GERMAN-occupied EUROPE, ITALY, ITALIAN AFRICA and ALBANIA.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
30—12—40. (Monday).			
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Patrol over the fighting area ...	...	...
	Reconnaissance over the BARDIA-TOBRUK area.	...	...
	Offensive reconnaissance over a large area of SOMALILAND.	...	...
	Aircraft on the ground at BARDERA aerodrome.	...	One plane completely destroyed and others damaged.
	ITALY.		
	Italian Naval units at TARANTO ...	...	Very heavy damage.
	The harbour at PALERMO ...	...	...
	A chemical factory at CROTONNE ...	...	Set on fire.
	TORRE ANNUNZIATA ...	...	...
	NAPLES ...	...	...
31—12—40. (Tuesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	A factory in COLOGNE ...	...	Destroyed.
	Military objectives in ROTTERDAM ...	...	...
	Docks at YMUIDEN ...	...	Damaged.
	An anti-aircraft ship near FLUSHING.	2 planes.	Sunk.
	A bridge near EMMERICH ...	...	...
NIGHT :—			
	No air activity owing to bad weather.		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy troops, motor transport concentrations and military stores in and about BARDIA.	...	Heavy damage and casualties. Fire started.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
31—12—40. (Tuesday)—*cont.*			
	ITALIAN AFRICA—*cont.*		
	Aircraft on the ground at GAMBUT ...	...	1 plane burnt.
	Enemy camp and landing ground near GUBBI.	...	Fires started; 1 plane
	Stores, wearhouses and other military objectives at ASSAB (ERITREA).	...	A motor transport destroyed.
	An encampment at DANGHILA ...	...	Numerous fires started.
	ALBANIA.		
	VALONA ...	1 plane.	Heavily damaged. 1 plane.
1—1—41. (Wednesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	Dockyards, shipbuilding yards, the DEUTSCHE Vacuum Oil refineries, warehouses and the FOCKE-WULFE airframe factory at BREMEN.	...	Buildings gutted; many fires started; Bremen "A raging furnace." Very heavy damage.
	Ports in enemy occupied territory, including FLUSHING, OSTEND and BREST.	No loss.	Battered.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Aerodromes at TMIMI and GAZALA	...	Damaged.
	BARDIA and DERNA. ...	...	Very heavy raids.
	Buildings near SABDERAT ...	...	Many gutted.
	Enemy positions and motor transport vehicles at KÉRU (near KASSALA).	No loss.	Heavy casualties.
	The harbour at TRIPOLI ...	...	Fires started.
2—1—41. (Thursday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	The Naval base, shipyards and the railway station in BREMEN.	...	Very huge fires started.
	Oil targets in EMDEN and AMSTERDAM	...	Set on fire.
	The railway junction near BREMEN...	1 plane	Damaged.

ate.	Targets.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
2—1—41.	**(Thursday.)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Troop concentrations and other important military objectives in BARDIA.	No loss.	Heaviest raid yet. Many fires stared.
	ALBANIA.		
	A large military building and other objectives in ELBASAN.	No loss.	Fires and explosions started.
3—1—41.	**(Friday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	Dockyards, naval base, shipbuilding yards, factories, warehouses, railways and goodsyards at BREMEN.	...	3rd night in succession. Bremen "a sea of flame." Very heavy damage.
	Other targets in Enemy and Enemy occupied territory.	1 plane.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	BARDIA ...	...	Many tons of bombs unloaded.
	Military buildings and the harbour at TOBRUK.	...	Explosions followed large fires. 1 plane shot down.
	The aerodrome at EL GAZALA ...	...	...
	The aerodrome and the enemy aircraft on the ground at MARTUBA.	...	3 planes damaged.
	Patrol and reconnaissance over the battle front.	1 plane.	3 planes and others damaged.
4—1—41.	**(Saturday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	BREST (one of HITLER'S chief invasion ports).	...	1 destroyer hit. Fires started.
	NIGHT :—		
	Targets in HAMBURG ...	...	...
	Two German supply ships off the NORWEGIAN coast.	...	Damage l.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
4—1—41.	**(Saturday.)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The defences and other military objectives at BARDIA.	...	Pounded.
	The jetty and the harbour at BOMBA.	...	Damaged.
	Active Patrol over LIBYA ...	...	3 planes shot down and one destroyed.
	The harbour at TRIPOLI ...	...	Many fires started.
	ALBANIA.		
	Road junctions and military objectives in ELBASAN.	...	Seriously damaged.
5—1—41.	**(Sunday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	Docks, shipping and the aerodrome ... at BREST.	No loss.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Military buildings, aerodromes, naval barracks and the town's defences at TOBRUK.	...	Huge fires and explosions started. Heavily damaged.
	Aerial fight in LIBYA. ...	...	7 fighters and 4 bombers shot down and many others damaged.
	The naval base at MASSAWA ...	...	...
	Patrolling activity over the KENYA and SUDAN frontiers.	...	...

Enemy Raids over Britain, British Territories and Greece.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
31—12—40.	**(Tuesday).**		
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	KENT, SUSSEX and an East ANGLIAN **town.**	...	No damage and no casualties.
	NIGHT :—		
	No air activity.		

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
1—1—41. (Wednesday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	No air activity.		
NIGHT :—			
	LONDON area, LIVERPOOL, the MIDLANDS and **widely separated places** in WALES.	...	Some damage and a few casualties. No damage.
2—1—41. (Thursday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	A town in KENT; another **town** in the West of ENGLAND and other **coastal areas.**	...	Little damage and a few casualties.
NIGHT :—			
	Two East County **towns** and **a town** in WALES;	...	Fires started. Heavy casualties.
	IRELAND.		
	EIRE (six times)—Neutrality violated	...	Several civilians killed or injured.
3—1—41. (Friday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	One town in KENT ...	...	Slight damage and no casualties.
NIGHT :—			
	BRISTOL and **a few other towns** in ENGLAND; LONDON area.	....	A few buildings damaged.
4—1—41. (Saturday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	A coastal town in KENT; East and South-East coasts of ENGLAND.	3 planes.	Slight damage and a few casualties. 1 plane.
NIGHT :—			
	A town in South WALES ...	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Greek aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
5–1–41. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	A town in East ANGLIA and a few other places in East ANGLIA.	...	Slight damage. "Cattle machine-gunned."
	NIGHT :—		
	LONDON area, LIVERPOOL, the MIDLANDS and few towns in North-East ENGLAND.	...	A few killed and a few injured. Very slight damage.
6–1–41. (Monday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	LONDON (only 3 **alerts**) KENT and Eastern COUNTIES.	...	No raid eventuated. Slight damage and a few casualties.
	NIGHT :—		
	No air raid tonight anywhere in BRITAIN.	...	...

SIDE LIGHTS.

This Youth Business. Somebody has written a recent book debunking the tendency to glorify youth as such. A misanthropist may will feel a bit vitriolic about youth when he studies the result of German official manipulation of the young during the past twenty-five years. The Hitlerjugend and the Fascist Littorio deliberately filled continental children with the poison of mystical militarism, and the war is almost a direct result. At the same time, I hazard that one of the private despairs of the Dictators is the youth of their present enemies. They are fighting against nations which have never enslaved their children to a State machine; those children sing in life-boats in an Atlantic storm, succour their parents and friends in air-raids, and suffer like heroes when they have to—and those children are the next generation. Even if the Germans win—which may the gods forfend, and they will!—what is the next generation going to think of Totalitarianism? Are they not more deadly enemies-in-posse of the New Order than any of us are? No, don't debunk youth. Protect it, save it, glorify it. The world will be a better place in their hands than it is in ours.

Free Frenchmen. I have noticed a tendency to belittle a certain General Charles de Gaulle. The unfortunate DAKAR incident, probably. But His Majesty's Government must be grateful enough to him. These are authentic details of the additions to the active enemies of GERMANY for which we have to thank that courageous Frenchman.

35,000 fully trained and armed troops

Over a score of war-vessels

1000 trained airmen

and 60 merchant ships.

Even more valuable than these is De Gaulle's growing influence in FRANCE. Petain may be still respected and even liked, but none of his colleagues are. Laval is frankly hated, and Flandin, Baudouin and certainly De Brinon carry no sweet savour to the nostrils of provincial Frenchmen, however much pull they may have with the banks and the newspapers. The efficiency and far-sightedness of De Gaulle (only just beginning to be realised) added to the romance of his passionately patriotic mission are making him a hero in his countrymen's eyes—and it is open to question whether General Weygand and 400,000, troops in NORTH AFRICA think very badly of him, either.

Victories and Victory. Let us keep our sense of proportion about Gen. Wavell's splendid campaign in NORTH AFRICA. We have shown the Italians where they get off, undoubtedly and we have done it at an admirably judged moment for the Greeks. We have demonstrated,—if it ever wanted demonstrating—that anyhow one of the Totalitarian armies is no sort of match for the Imperial troops, (who are still only at about half-strength), and we have made Mussolini's bed a mighty uncomfortable one to lie in. But our present role in AFRICA is surely to safeguard, absolutely, Imperial communications—EGYPT and the Canal—and not territorial acquisition. In other words, the army of the Nile is a defensive force, not a continental invader. The fall of BARDIA and TOBRUK may well be the limit of our offensive objective for a bit, for our communications are lengthening out, and we are already having to cope with the difficulties that so hung up GRAZIANI, though, thanks to our command of the sea, nothing like so decisively. What I mean is that, for military reasons alone, even the complete annihilation of the Italian forces in LIBYA would not knock ITALY out of the war, so let us not run away with dreams of a sequence of resounding victories, but thank our stars—and General Wavell, the Australian troops and our own Indian soldiers—that we and CEYLON and SINGAPORE and AUSTRALIA can still send our mutual requirements backwards and forwards without let or hindrance, which is something that the Italians would sell their boots (now getting worn out) or even their souls (if any) to be able to do!

Force Majeure. Adolf Hitler is not used to having things forced on him. He has always preferred to do the forcing. The initiative, we are told, is always an advantage, and the Germans certainly know something about that! So I wonder what it feels like to be deprived of the initiative especially if one is of the mental make-up of Hitler. For that describes his present situation. The invasion of ENGLAND failed; the pincer movement failed; the *Drang nach osten* hangs fire; the Japanese do not altogether relish the Tripartite Pact now that AMERICA has so unmistakeably shown her disposition; Hitler's principal ally has become so uncertain a quantity that he must feverishly look for another, and RUSSIA remains a selfish enigma. So, with his long history of definite and dated promises to his people behind him, *he has to do something*. What it will be—another desperate assault on Britain, with an attempted impressment of FRANCE into his service, or a dash for the Bosphorus, or a contemptuous, resentful venture at rescuing Fascism, we do not yet know. But what we know, and he knows, is that the initiative has passed from his hands. What he now attempts will be under the pressure of events, and Hitler cannot be relishing it, nor Goebbels the task of explaining it to his bemused radio-slaves.

Per Contra. On the other hand Hitler weilds enormous power utterly ruthlessly. He must keep the pot on the boil, so that if we note hesitation or inactivity in one direction, we must be prepared for some great intensification of effort in another. BRITAIN is still only a half-armed nation, and you can't make the defence of your country certain, and at the same time run a major offensive elsewhere, in such condition. BUT, during this year BRITAIN will become fully armed, according to the estimate of those best qualified to know, and then the balloon will go up! It is to prevent or forestall that ascent that Hitler must soon make some frantic effort, for he, as well as we, knows that Mr. Churchill does *not* believe that the war will continue into 1943 and 1944—as he has been accused of suggesting, when he used these dates apropos of certain industries in which it is essential to look well ahead.

Bomb-loads and Distances. British air tactics are sometimes criticized, and not only for their rejection of the reprisals theory. The Germans, of course, use this for propaganda, their broadcasts airily assuming that because of distances to be flown, bomb-loads must be lighter and less devastating, and that GERMANY is getting off much more lightly in the air-war than BRITAIN. The opinion of such great industrial and shipping centres as BREMEN and HAMBURG can hardly have been solicited before such announcements, but here are a few technical facts which should be digested before we begin to slate the R. A. F. High Command.

Admitting at once that the weight of bombs a plane can carry is determined by the distance to be flown, the following points may help to counter our own critics and the German allegations:—

(*a*) It is accurate aiming rather than weight of bombs which determines the amount of military damage caused. It is universally admitted that the R. A. F. is greatly superior to the *Luftwaffe* in the matter of accuracy, **and that accuracy is due to the height from which the attacks are made**. Most German bombings are conducted from 20,000 ft. and upwards, whereas the R. A. F. bomb GERMANY from 10,000 ft. and downwards, even down to 500 ft. when attacking aerodroms, etc.

(*b*) The greater accuracy from the lower levels is not only a question of distance, but even more of wind velocity. Experts tell you that while when bombing from 10,000 ft. it should be possible to get within 100 yards of the target every time, bombing from 30,000 ft. you will be lucky to get within half a mile!

(*c*) The German arguments themselves only apply to places like BERLIN and further east. The RUHR and other great industrial centres

in the West, and most German-occupied territory are easily within range of our new heavy bombers. The distance from British bases to say, DUSSELDORF, is very little more than that from North-east FRANCE to SHEFFIELD.

Kings and Kings. Our own King—God bless him!—broadcasts from his bombed London Palace, tours devastated districts in tin hat and gas-mask and constantly inspires his soldiers, his civilians and his Parliament by his presence, his bearing and his invincible courage. Hailé Selassié returns to the borders of his ravished realm, scheming, and encouraging his subjects, against the Italian invader. King Haakon exiled yet indomitable, sustains the spirit of oppressed Norwegians with frequent sturdy messages. Even poor Carol, with a price on his head so to speak, remains a danger of sorts to the Germans. But where is the King of ALBANIA, that country in process of bloody release from the loathed intruder, that country which is being gallantly rescued by a tiny nation of seven million souls? King Zog and his family are in a comfortable hotel in LONDON! Yes, there are kings *and* kings.

A new Sobriquet. With the assistance of one greater than I, I dare to perpetrate a *mot*. It is prompted by the name of one of the most prominent of Fascist apologists and broadcasters, one Farinacci. The Greeks already call their enemies 'macaronis' from a food of which Italians are very fond. Now Macaroni is a *farinaceous* food. So also is Vermicelli, which, happily enough denotes 'little worms'! Surely, *le mot juste*! We must send the Greek High Command a copy of this Bulletin!

WAR PORTENTS OF 1941.

THE ODDS ARE MOUNTING AGAINST THE DICTATORS' ATTEMPT AT CONTINENT-WIDE REVOLUTION.

(With acknowledgments to Illustrated Weekly of India).

WHEN Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham spent Christmas at Malta he showed the world in the most positive manner possible that so far as an Italian threat on or over the Mediterranean is concerned, the British Navy is not seriously worried.

The frantic cheers of the Maltese on seeing the British Navy back again are understandable. Since Italy entered the war they have suffered over 200 air raids—though owing to the vast underground shelters available, little damage to life has been done.

In the meantime the British Fleet has been away—Malta's famous Grand Harbour could be a nasty trap in which to be caught by Italian bombers. The Maltese have also had time in the interim to consider whether they really believe the Italian propaganda about the close affinity between Malta and Italy. Judging by the Christmas-time cheers, they don't.

AN OMEN.

To-day the Italian threat from the air is considered to be of so little moment that the Fleet not only called at Malta but stayed there two days. Had the risk from Italy been serious, such a visit would have been criminal folly. Since the British Navy does not indulge in criminal folly, the logic is clear for all the world to see.

This visit to Malta is worth pondering, because though in the operations against Italy it may only seem a detail, it is an important one—an omen of what the next few months will bring.

If a British Admiral considers that he can afford to ignore both the Italian air force and navy within such a short distance of the Italian mainland, Mussolini's grip on the destiny of the Mediterranean must be weak indeed. And since it is as weak as this visit indicates, then in the months ahead we may well expect to see Italy's exit from the war—at least as an effective combatant.

As a matter of fact, the time has now arrived when Mussolini would be well advised to get out of the war, and get out quickly, if he wishes to save his skin—and for that matter his country.

His invasion of Greece, evidently intended to show the other end of the Axis that Italy was still capable of independent action, has been a fiasco. His bluff in Africa has equally been called. At the moment of writing both Albania and Abyssinia look like losses to the neo-Roman Empire.

IF HITLER MOVES...........

Such disasters at the hands of the British and Greeks are bad enough, but they are as nothing compared with what will happen to Italy herself should senior-Axis-partner Hitler decide that in his own interests the northern shores of the Mediterranean must be defended.

This would mean that even the very country which Mussolini has so painstakingly built up would become an economic and political vassal of the Reich, with no more say in her own affairs, than Denmark—a position far worse than that of the Italians in the nineteenth century when Austria dominated the northern part of the country.

Such an eventuality would in all probability cause a revolution in Italy—a revolution which might well put Signor Benito and his empty-headed son-in-law Ciano in front of a firing squad.

On the other hand, peace with Britain would at least leave Italy intact and independent. Whether Mussolini or any other Italian leader negotiated such an armistice would be of little moment because, if free from German pressure, the Italian people could be relied upon to deal faithfully with the now discredited Fascist party.

In this respect the Italian case would appear to be different from the German one. The Italian people do not seem to have shared Fascist illusions about a new Roman Empire, while the Germans, on the other hand, appear to be fairly thoroughly behind the world ambitions of Nazism.

But however that may be, Italy's military defeats have now reached such proportions that she will have to decide whether it is better to yield to Nazism or to Britain. There is reason to suppose that a considerable body of opinion in Italy is against a surrender to Germany, and we may assume that before another new year comes round Italy will have made her choice.

Considering the way in which the Nazis flirt with Vichy at Italy's expense, that choice may not be very difficult to forecast.

THE REAL BATTLE.

As regards Germany, there have been prophecies in plenty that the war will be over in 1941. We need not take those claims very seriously, but it seems reasonable to forecast that unless miracles happen, the German position must of necessity deteriorate.

Hitler has made it clear that his real war is with Britain, and obviously until some decision is reached in that field we cannot expect any satisfactory conclusion of hostilities.

Such a decision will not be reached by the air war—serious though this may be for both combatants. If the worst happens to Britain, the air attacks can only open the way for invasion, which must in turn depend on control of the sea at least long enough to land an adequate invading force.

We have been warned that such an attempt may yet be made. Were such an attempt to succeed, it could be regarded as one of the miracles which would save the German position.

Such a statement is, however, liable to qualification. To invade Britain, Hitler must devote a considerable proportion of his armed forces to the job—and expect to lose many of them.

As time goes on it is a matter of conjecture how great a proportion he can afford to spare without encouraging his various continental victims to rise in his rear. An important consideration in this respect is the rising spirit of France who now seems to be recovering from the stupor of last summer's defeat.

Furthermore there is also good reason to believe that the Russians while doing nothing to help Britain, would not be willing to see her completely defeated by the Germans. The recent Russian warning to Bulgaria not to give facilities for the passage of German troops, may well be a sign that Rus ia considers Hitler has grown quite big enough in the East.

Were Hitler to attempt an invasion of Britain, he would have sent his best divisions to the West, giving Stalin an excellent chance to do anything he wishes in the East. Hitler may risk all on such a gamble, but it cannot be denied that the odds are steadily mounting against him. Apart from those already mentioned, there are of course the vast preparations in Britain itself—they are the decisive factor.

SUSPENDED REVOLUTION.

Another miracle which might save Germany would be Russia's decision to throw in her lot with the Nazis and assist, or at any rate suspend her opposition to, a German drive eastward to Suez.

This would be valuable to Hitler because of the chance not only of cutting an important British artery, but of getting moving again. At present, except for the air war, the Nazi fighting machine is in a state of suspended animation This is a most unhealthy condition for a military and political machine as revolutionary as the Nazi one.

Similarly the Nazi failure to do more than froth at the mouth at the United States, and the Nazi attempts to divert U. S. attention by using Japan as a tool, show how unwilling they are to extend their commitments—at present, at any rate.

WAR METHODS.

In the last resort, they may try a mad armed gamble against the rest of France or against America (though it is difficult to see how they can do this). But when either of those things happen we many assume the Nazis know that they are nearing the end of their powers and that circumstances are forcing them to take chances which even they are not normally willing to face. These are portents which may show themselves during the coming year.

Another side of the German revolution which may well be tested during the next twelve months is the method of making war, which so far has been by a series of paroxysmal pushes, interspersed with periods of comparative inactivity. This has made possible such drives as those into Poland and into France, drives made on comparatively limited resourses used to their utmost by troops " hopped up" to maximum fighting power with drugs.

But what will happen when they have to meet a land force thoroughly organised to undertake a compaign of months or years and not just weeks, a force which will choose its own time at which to strike? Wild rushes and drugs will be of little use in such circumstances.

Yet this is precisely the campaign they will have to face when the British offensive is ready. Mr. Churchill has already announced that he is preparing for the war in 1941 and 1942—this year and next year. Events in North Africa have shown what can happen when he and his advisers decide that the hour has struck.

The present year may well contain the appropriate hour for settling accounts on the continent of Europe—a development which even Hitler has already publicly recognised as likely.

Only this time Hitler will not name the hour, just as Mussolini failed to do so in Africa in spite of his boasting.

WHY BRITAIN IS CONFIDENT
AN ENGLISHMAN STATES HIS POSITION
FIGHTING FOR A WAY OF LIFE

By

WICKHAM STEED

EVERYTHING in this war must still be judged in the light of the Battle of Britain. The brilliant Greek victories over Mussolini, the growing revolt of French feeling against further capitulation to Hitler, active unrest in Norway and the dour passive resistance of Holland could hold no prospect of ultimate freedom for Europe if the British at home should lose heart or doubt their power to overcome Nazi Germany.

What is the truth upon this crucial issue? Have the heavy German air raids on provincial cities like Coventry, Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol and Southampton weakened the British spirit or the British power to hit back and finally conquer? The Englishman's answer to these questions is naturally open to suspicion. Even if he were capable of impartial vision, the non-British world will doubt whether his judgment is sober and sound.

Nevertheless I shall give my answer frankly and truthfully. For 20 years I have observed my own country from abroad. Part of my task was to explain the British to foreign statesmen and diplomatists. Had I misled them, my usefulness and their confidence in my judgment would have vanished. For another 20 years it was my business to form and express critical views on national affairs at home. It is on public record that I was rarely mistaken. So to-day I apply this experience to the Battle of Britain. Whether others accept my conclusions is a minor matter. I state them mainly for my own satisfaction.

Anna Freud, daughter of the famous psycho-analyst, said recently "You've never seen anything like these British people. You wouldn't believe it unless you lived here. They're so calm and they take it all so well." This is true. But it doesn't explain why our people are so calm. Only the Briton born and bred, with the un-British habit of articulate expression, can explain it. Here is my explanation.

I have lived in London during most of the heavy German raids on the capital. I've been in places like Bristol just after and during other destructive raids. I've seen and marvelled at the spirit of my own people. How is it they are neither panic-stricken nor depressed?

It is partly because they know, by instinct more than by conscious reasoning, that it would help them not at all to be frightened or downhearted. Without saying it to

themselves or others **they feel that if they were to lose the war they would cease to exist as a free people. They mean to exist and remain free. It never enters their heads that for them there can be any way out except through victory.**

So while they are getting ready to smash Hitler they bear without wincing or complaint whatever suffering and damage he can inflict on them. It is because they are or think themselves, more heroic than other peoples. It is because they've long been free and accustomed to govern themselves. They would rather be destroyed than yield.

Hitler misunderstands the British and their temper. He thinks they are like the Germans. They are not. The Germans are naturally disciplined and obedient to authority. The British are naturally undisciplined and refractory to authority *unless the authority is their own.* To-day they are spontaneously disciplined and obey the authority they have bestowed on their national government. Unlike the Germans the British see no alternative to victory. For the Germans the defeat of Nazism would not mean the end of Germany. They remember other, and better, non-Nazi Germanys. If they suffer, it is for Hitler, not for Germany.

The British on the contrary, **endure and suffer** not for a dictator or for a system but **for a way of life without which they would not wish to live.** They do not reason consciously about it. But they behave unconsciously and instinctively as though they did reason it out. It has been said that the British win victories because they do not know when they are beaten. Hitler said recently that they were beaten but did not know it. He is wrong. The British are not beaten and, until they think of themselves as beaten, they will not be beaten. They feel quite sure of beating Hitler.

Against this background the episodes of war favourable and unfavourable to Britain need to be judged. For the present Hitler is leaving the Italians to their fate and is trying to smash British cities. He may also be trying to work with Laval instead of with Mussolini The British take these things quite calmly. Their strength is growing rapidly, their spirit is unshaken and it is the Germans, not the British, who will one day know they are beaten.

CAN INDIA BE INVADED?
VIEWS OF GENERAL SIR WALTER KIRKE.
IMPORTANCE OF MIDDLE EAST AND SINGAPORE.

THE possibilities of a direct threat to India in the present war were discussed by General Sir Walter Kirke in an interview granted to an Indian journalist in London.

General Kirke, who has in the past held various important military appointments in India and is widely recognised as an authority on Middle Eastern strategy, stated that the possibility of an attack along the historic conquerors' route in the north-west is remote.

Afghanistan and Iran lie athwart the aggressor's path and they remain strongly opposed to Hitler and Mussolini and firmly attached to the principles for which Britain is fighting.

On the whole, General Kirke considers that India's land frontiers are not directly threatened from any direction for the time being and the great danger that she has to ward against is that of an enemy establishing himself on the Persian Gulf.

An enemy submarine base in the Gulf would involve a further dispersion of British naval strength and might tend to cut India's sea communications. **" Therefore ", said the General, " the countries adjacent to the Suez Canal—Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Palestine and Transjordan—constitute a supremely vital area for India in this struggle. If Germany could break through in this area, she might penetrate Iraq and Iran and establish herself on the Persian Gulf ".**

General Kirke was emphatic that Germany would fail in any such move, but insisted that the possibility on the move being made must be seriously envisaged. Any advance of the Axis powers towards the Bosphorus and Dardanelles would probably mean the entry of Turkey into the war on our side.

Asked if he thought an actual invasion of India was at all a military possibility, even if the enemy were to obtain naval superiority, the General replied: " Why not ? **For an enemy with command of the sea it would not only be possible but comparatively easy.** "

" But that does not mean ", he added, " that the conquest of India would be easy or quick. India's size, like China's would prove a great advantage in

defence. I consider too that the Indian Army, even as it is to-day, would prove a far better fighting force than anything China was able to put in the field. And the Indian Army is capable of great development".

"Two vital factors then would be the ability of the rest of the British Commonwealth to reinforce by sea and **the internal unity of the country.** United against an invader, India would be able in her vast area continually to develop her resources and to prevent the ultimate conquest of her territory".

"But all this is rather remote.

REAL DEFENCE.

"As long as the British navy controls the seas, the question of invasion does not really arise. The best defence of India is therefore outside her frontiers and it is the **defences of Singapore and Middle East that she must help to strengthen in order to avoid the horrors of war on her own soil.**

"India's fighting material is world-renowned and there is no dearth of available man power. **Even to-day it is possible to raise a force of a million men,** who, if suitably armed, would sweep all before them in the Middle East.

"But men, as such, play but a limited part in modern warfare. The problem is one of **equipment** and maintenance. India is developing steadily, **but must produce more and more of the armaments of modern warfare, not merely guns and ammunition.** The reinforcement and maintenance of the Middle Eastern forces from Great Britain by a long sea route levies a severe strain on shipping. Any part of this equipping and maintenance which Indian labour in Indian factories is able to take over is a distinct gain. Not only does it lighten the general burden but makes for India's self-reliance in war and prosperity in peace".

METHOD BEHIND R. A. F. RAIDS ON GERMANY
TYPES OF OBJECTIVES SINGLED OUT
LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM AIMS
DAMAGE TO OIL PLANTS AND TRANSPORT

The following special article from the **Manchester Guardian** *analyses the method behind the bombings of Germany :—*

IT is difficult for the lay public of an attacking power to make continuous and coherent sense out of the daily news of bombing raids on this or that military objective. Successive operations may seem to be geographically and

tactically unrelated until they are surveyed over a considerable period. So it is with the R. A. F.'s attacks on Germany and German-occupied territory. Their aim has been twofold—the immediate reduction of the enemy's striking power and the ultimate weakening of his war effort and the means of exerting it. For the last two months particularly has this longer-term policy become important. It is significant of the R. A. F.'s growing strength that, while the threat of invasion was at its height in September and our furious assault on the Channel ports still going on, we were still able to continue our bombardment of German factories, railways and military stores and to extend the field of operations eastwards to Berlin and beyond.

Since the end of September the "long-term" bombing of objectives in Germany itself has been the outstanding feature of our operations. In September there were 198 attacks on 82 places in Germany and in October 255 attacks on 86 places, but these figures, counting each place named in official statements as only one objective, do not fully represent the growth of the offensive, for latterly four or five types of objectives have been attacked in a single raid on such places as Berlin, Hamburg and Cologne.

In the development of the policy of "ultimate weakening", three types (besides armament and aircraft factories) have become especially prominent and two of them are concerned with weaknesses already known to exist in Germany's war economy. These last two are again inter-connected. They are (1) oil stocks, refineries and synthetic oil plants ; and (2) inland communications—railways, canals and road transport. In the case of the third type of objective, German naval bases and shipbuilding yards, our action is more immediately defensive as well as offensive.

Hardly a night has passed in the last two months without an attack on oil targets of some kind in Germany. Three great hydrogenation plants at Leuna, Gelsenkirchen and Politz, near Stettin, and the Rhenania Ossag refineries and storage tanks at Hamburg have been most persistently bombarded. Gelsenkirchen and Hamburg each had 14 raids on oil targets in October and November, Leuna seven and Politz four. Elsewhere in Germany there are nearly a score of centres of oil production and storage regularly visited. The production of oil from coal has been highly developed in Germany but the processes are complex and delicate and synthetic and hydrogenation plants are very vulnerable targets.

The attack on transport has been going on ever since the invasion of the Low Countries. Latterly the attack has gone much deeper into Germany. The repeated raids on Berlin have been aimed largely at railways. Germany's railways are known to be under-equipped and have been further over-burdened

by the shifting eastward of war industries in the attempt to get out of reach of the R. A. F.; hence the persistent attacks on key points, such as the great terminal stations of the capital and their goods yards. Similarly places like Halle and Nordhausen in Central Germany have a strategic importance from their place in the East to West transport system.

Second only in importance to railways are rivers and canals, and particularly the river ports of the Rhine. Duisburg river-port had on November 20 a concentrated attack of the type recently developed by the R. A. F. in which one target area was singled out for a night's operations.

Winter weather has limited night-raiding, but rarely stopped it. In October and November there were raids on Germany on 51 nights out of 61.

THREE CURRENTS OF THOUGHT IN FRANCE

HOW WESTERN DESERT CAMPAIGN INFLUENCES PUBLIC OPINION

PETAIN'S EFFORTS TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY

WHAT PURCHASES OF RADIO SETS SUGGEST

By cable.

(*Vernon Bartlett in the News Chronicle*).

THE campaign in the Western Desert is likely to have considerable influence on France, and especially on those French Colonies in Africa where some senior officials or officers are still trying to carry out the policy of surrender.

Two very prominent neutrals who left Vichy only a few weeks ago assure me that **pro-British feeling has grown at a tremendous pace since the early days of September.**

In their opinion any Government which now tried to co-operate with Germany against Great Britain would be rendered powerless by the civil service throughout the country.

Bitterness is far greater against Mussolini than against Hitler and his misfortunes at the hands of the British must greatly increase the desire for a British victory.

The name of General De Gaulle was unknown to most Frenchmen at the time of the collapse, but he is now looked upon as a hero by hundreds of

thousands who hear of him in broadcasts from London. That his followers should be co-operating in the campaign in Egypt is a political fact of great importance.

In Vichy there would appear to be three currents of opinion. There is nothing between Laval and Flandin—each willing to outdo the other in the race to be Hitler's chosen puppet. But there are indications that Laval, who was formerly so sure of a speedy peace, would now like to retrace his steps if he saw any chance of doing so. Admiral Darlan, Minister of Marine, is fanatically anti-British, but since the Taranto affair is increasingly unpopular with the Navy.

M. Gaston Berery, former Secretary to M. Herriot and husband of the daughter of Krassin, once Soviet Ambassador in London, is said to be the intellectual power behind this smaller group, although he was one of the leaders of the international protest against the Reichstag Fire trial.

In the second category is Marshal Petain, who sees himself as the equivalent of Marshal Von Hindenburg. He is a man who desires to serve his country and who believes that for the time being he must do so by accepting the German terms. But these neutrals from Vichy, who both know him well, are convinced that he is moving farther away from Laval, partly because British resistance revives his hopes that France may win back her independence and partly because there is no sign that Germany is likely to produce terms which could be accepted by a man of honour. (This was written on the eve of Laval's dismissal). With Petain are several ministers who are nonentities.

In the third category are all the Frenchmen who see hope only in the exploits of their compatriots who have had the courage to join the Free French movement. Among these men there are many who are convinced that Germany will lose and who begin to fear that France will have little or no say in making peace unless her citizens are more active in bringing about Hitler's defeat. Their interest in the Free French movement is insatiable and they will run considerable risks in order to hear broadcasts from London.

I learn from a private letter from South France that it has now almost become impossible to buy a wireless set, however much one is prepared to pay for it, and one may safely assume that a set is not bought merely so that its owner can listen to the official communiqués from Vichy. It is also interesting to note that many newspapers, formerly unfriendly to Britain, print these communiqués as they are bound to do but add no comment of any sort which would imply hostility to this country.

In the opinion of my informants it would be impossible for any French Government to agree that the Navy or French Colonies should be used to bring about the defeat of the Allies.

COSMOPOLITANA

1. "Adolf Hitler is called upon to be the leader of the world, unhampered by anyone."

(*Dr. Frank, Governor of Poland, Dec. 22.*)

2. "The British People are irrevocably resolved to give India full political freedom."

(*Nine British M. Ps., Dec. 23.*)

3. "The message of the British nation to the Indian nation is 'Join with us in defeating Hitlerism. Join with us thereafter in framing the terms of peace and helping to shape the course of the world.'"

(*Nine British M. Ps., Dec. 23.*)

4. "It is..... one man and one alone who has arrayed that great land of the Emperors of ancient Rome upon the side of ferocious, pagan barbarians."

(*Mr. Winston Churchill, London, Dec. 24*)

5. "What hard choice is open now (*for Italy*)? It is to stand up to the battery of the whole British Empire...... or to call in Attila over the Brenner Pass."

(*Mr. Winston Churchill, London Dec. 24.*)

6. "Out of this suffering there is growing a harmony which we must carry forward into the days to come, when we have endured to the end and victory is ours."

(*H. M. The King Emperor, Dec. 25.*)

7. "If you had a thermometer and measured German morale against English morale, you would find the German reading about 45 and the English about 85."

(*Mr. N. Irwin of the American paper P. M. late December.*)

8. "The Germans can no more destroy the spirit of Southampton than Canute could push back the waves there. It will be rebuilt and deep ships' sirens will echo through the streets again. New armies of Americans will visit it with a new reverence as one of the places where ordinary men and women died for freedom."

(*Mr. N. Irwin of the American paper P. M. late December.*)

9. "The Nazis talk of a new order in the world, but what they have in mind is the oldest and worst tyranny, in which there is no liberty, no religion and no hope."

(*President Roosevelt, Dec. 29*).

10. "The United States have no right to encourage the work of peace until peace comes from the aggressor nations."

(*President Roosevelt, Dec. 29.*)

11. "I believe the Axis Powers will not win this war."

(*President Roosevelt, Dec. 29.*)

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period December 24—30, 1940.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

Assuming the mantle of Christian piety, Dr. Goebbels instructs his radio propagandists to announce (December 27) that it was out of veneration for the Christmas season that the *Luftwaffe* did not raid Britain on December 25 —whereas the wicked R. A. F. bombed Germany and German-occupied territory. In point of fact, the R. A. F. carried out no raids on the Continent on December 24 and 25; but the British characteristically claimed no special virtue for this lull, attributing it chiefly to unfavourable weather conditions.

In any case, Christian piety sits uneasily on the crooked shoulders of Josef Goebbels who in March, 1936, declared: "Our Leader now becomes the intermediary between his people and the Throne of God"; and who later authorised the publication in the *Saarbruckener Landeszeitung* of this blasphemous assertion: "Hitler is a new, a greater, a more powerful Jesus Christ".

WORKERS AGAINST HITLER.

As was to be expected, Goebbels finds yet further cause for righteous wrath on Boxing Day; this time it is the cheerful decision of British workers to carry on during what is normally a public holiday. No less than a thousand words of invective were churned out on this subject by Berlin on Boxing-Night. "Britain is conducting a most dastardly civil war against her workers" the world is told. "December 26, 1940 will go down in history as a most disastrous defeat of the British Labour Movement".

What Hitler thinks of labour movements is summed up in his words to Otto Strasser in 1930: "The workers want nothing but bread and games. In the great

mass they are not worth considering". What the British workers want is the defeat of Hitler—and they are working to achieve it.

LOTS OF HAW-HAW.

Haw-Haw pokes ponderous fun at the new press attaché to the British Legation at Stockholm, who, he says, can only reach his destination *via* Capetown, Durban, Cairo and Moscow. It is tactless of Haw-Haw to admit that Britons can still travel to the ends of the earth, and to forget that no German could set foot today in Durban, Capetown or Cairo, or prevent an Englishman from setting foot in Moscow. Finally, after yet another gibe at those 50 U. S. destroyers—whose acquisition by Britain seems to have annoyed the Germans more than any other incident of the war—he warns the British people against "the illusion that they are going to be saved by the United States", which does not regard the war "as an occasion for philanthropy".

Just how America regards the war was subsequently explained (to Lord Haw-Haw and others) by President Roosevelt on December 30.

AXIS ANGLE ON ADRIATIC RAID.

Berlin reports (December 24); "An authoritative denial has been issued in Italy with reference to British reports about an alleged raid on Valona by a number of small Greek naval units. On the contrary, it is pointed out in Italy, it was the Italian Naval Force who took the initiative of bombing Greek batteries and other objectives along the Ionian coast in an efficient manner. The effect of this Italian attack has been ascertained by Italian reconnaissance planes".

No doubt this amazing rigmarole was the reply Mussolini sent to Berlin when the Fuehrer demanded to know the reason why British battleships, cruisers and destroyers had been allowed to sweep the Adriatic and bombard Valona unchallenged.

While continuing to dismiss events in North Africa as of no importance (in contrast to the *Giornale d'Italia's* announcement on December 18 of "the greatest colonial battle in history") the Nazis now find comfort in a new theory—that the prisoners captured by the British Imperial forces belonged to an "inferior race". "It may be safely assumed", says Berlin (December 30) "that more than 30,000 so-called prisoners of war were desert-tribesmen who had either taken part in the fighting on the Italian side or had been rounded up by the British Army to safeguard its lines of communication".

A communiqué issued from General Head-quarters, Cairo, on December 28, reported that so far 38,114 prisoners had been counted. Of these 24,845 were Italian officers and other ranks. Berlin conveniently cuts the Italian losses by 20,000, but it is not so easy to get those 20,000 Italian officers and men out of their prison camps.

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

FLOWERS OF SPEECH.

The Rome Radio continued through the week to indulge in its weakness for invective. The words "blackguards", "bastards", "fawning dogs", were repeatedly used for political leaders belonging to *all parties* and *all communities*. "The permanent place for them" we were told "is hell". As for Indians, an appeal to them (December 24) began "You asses !......".

FRENZIED BUILDING.

That the Nazis lack material with which to build propaganda is proved by their attempt to make capital out of the fact that the British Government have employed large numbers of labourers to repair the damage done to London by aerial attacks (December 29). If employing labour to repair damage is such a reprehensible practice, will the Nazis deign to explain Hitler's decree of November 15 in which he ordered Dr. Ley the Nazi Labour leader "to build at least 300 houses for workers by the end of this year", and thousands more subsequently ? "The decree has been issued", we were told by Berlin on November 19, "because at the end of the war Germany's requirements of labour will increase and in order to increase population and make people healthy and strong proper houses are essential".

But the hurry with which 300 houses were ordered to be built—in less than 45 days—pointed rather to the problems created by the R. A. F.'s bombardment of places like Krupps at Essen and Gelsenkirchen and Leuna synthetic-oil plants, where factories and workers' houses are interspersed together, than to any distant hope of increasing the population at the end of the war.

TAILPIECE.

A typical case of misstatement and misrepresentation was provided by the Nazis on December 27. They alleged that the British Minister of Supply who has just returned from America says that no large help can be received from the U. S. A., and the British people should not expect America to perform a miracle.

To begin with the Minister of Supply never went to America. Sir Walter Layton, the famous economist, went there on behalf of the Ministry of Supply. He returned from America recently and speaking in London he said : "The constantly growing volume of war material which America can produce gives certainty of ultimate victory".

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai War Information Bureau.

1941—

LECTURE XXVI.

January 11, Saturday	... Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
16, Thursday	... College (A) English	...	10.25 a. m.
	Rani's School	...	10.25 a. m.
	Chery School	...	5.30 p. m.
	Teachers' Association, Pudukkottai.		5.30 p. m.
	Karambakkudi	...	5.30 p. m.
	Odayalippatti	...	5.30 p. m.
	Annavasal	...	5.30 p. m.
	Vendampatti	...	5.30 p. m.
17, Friday	... C. S. M. School	...	10.00 a. m.
	Arimalam	...	5.00 p. m.
	Kulipirai	...	5.30 p. m.
	Koppanapatti	...	5.30 p. m.
	Kudumiamalai	...	5.30 p. m.

LECTURE XXVII.

18, Saturday	... Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
19, Sunday	... Avoor	...	9.45 a. m.
	Tirugokarnam	...	5.30 p. m.
20, Monday	... College (B) Tamil	...	10.25 a. m.
	Rani's School	...	10.25 a. m.
	Alangudi	...	5.30 p. m
	Rangiam	...	5.30 p. m.
21, Tuesday	... College (A) English	...	10.25 a. m.
	Chery School	...	5.30 p. m.
	Perungalur	...	5.30 p. m.
	Viralimalai	...	5.30 p. m.
	Ponnamaravathi	...	5.30 p. m.
23, Thursday	... Ramachandrapuram	...	5.30 p. m.
	Konapet	...	5.30 p. m.
24, Friday	... C. S. M. School	...	10.00 a. m.

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